



The Call of the Lord
January 19, 2025
Second Sunday of Epiphany



MEDITATION

Whether Christianity is true or not, it is the most *unnatural* religion in the world. . . .

Religious seeking is almost always about these two universal desires: to get help and to avert trouble. But in Christianity it is God who comes to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10); it is God who reckons with His own wrath, himself making propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2). The standard - or rather the obsessive - practices of homo religiosus have no place here. In Jesus Christ, the Christian gospel says, God has done it all.

- Alan Jacobs

Since total skepticism about ultimate beliefs is strictly impossible, in that no belief can be doubted except on the basis of some other belief, indifference is always in danger of giving place to some sort of fanaticism that can be as intolerant as any religion has ever been.

- Lesslie Newbigin

These readings are provided as a personal, family, or group worship resource. Use them along with your worship guide as resources for readings, prayers and hymns. Set in the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), a schedule of daily Bible readings in accord with the Church year, these scripture readings are designed around a three-year cycle that will take you through the Old Testament once, the New Testament twice, and the Psalms frequently.

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
Monday, January 20th	Psalm 145	Isaiah 54:1-8	Romans 12:9-21
Tuesday the 21st	Psalm 145	Song of Solomon 4:1-8	1 Corinthians 1:3-17
Wednesday the 22nd	Psalm 145	Song of Solomon 4:9-5:1	Luke 5:33-39
Thursday the 23rd	Psalm 19	Isaiah 61:1-7	Romans 7:1-6
Friday the 24th	Psalm 19	Nehemiah 2:1-10	Romans 12:1-8
Saturday the 25th	Psalm 19	Nehemiah 5:1-13	Luke 2:39-52

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WELCOME

Second City Church is a community that exists to worship the Triune God and to celebrate, in word and deed, the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Harrisburg.

Thank you for joining us in worship today. We hope this guide will help you participate in our service. If you have any questions about our worship, faith, or how you can be a part of our mission to serve God and neighbor in Harrisburg, be sure to talk to our pastor. If you would like to indicate your presence to us, please fill out the form on the back page of this bulletin and place it in the offering plate or give it to a greeter.

For Parents:

Children of all ages are welcome to remain with us as we worship. We like the noise; it helps us remember we are alive. The following services are available for you and your children to get the most out of your time of worship:

Infant & Toddler Care

Infant and toddler care is available on the first floor of the east wing of our building. Ask one of our greeters if you need help locating this room. Nursery staff are well-trained, have undergone required background checks, and will maintain a safe environment for your child(ren). Ask the nursery workers for a copy of our policies for more information.

Children & Worship

Children & Worship is for children ages preschool through 2nd grade and meets in a worship space below the sanctuary during the sermon. This time is designed to prepare them for more fully participating in our liturgy when they are older. They are dismissed during the announcements and return during the offertory. New families are welcome to tour the space before or after a service if desired.

Please note that our services are live-streamed.



LITURGY OF PREPARATION

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

Arise, shine, for your light has come!

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Let us praise the Lord together.

**The sun shall no longer be our light by day,
nor will the brightness of the moon shine on us,**

for the Lord will be our light,
and our God will be our glory.

**The Lord will be our everlasting light,
and our days of sorrow will end.**

Come, let us sing to our light and salvation!

—based on Isaiah 60

Gathering Hymn - Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise

Immortal invisible God only wise
In light inaccessible
Hid from our eyes
Most blessed most glorious
The Ancient of Days
Almighty victorious
Thy great name we praise

To all life thou givest,
To both great and small
In all life thou livest, the true life of all
We blossom and flourish
As leaves on the tree
And wither and perish
But naught changeth thee

Unresting unshaking, and silent as light
Nor wanting nor wasting
Thou rulest in might
Thy justice like mountains
High soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains
Of goodness and love

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light
Thine angels adore thee
All veiling their sight
All praise we would render
O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor, of light hideth thee

Confession Hymn - Have Mercy

Have mercy on me, have mercy on me
O Lord, have mercy, O Lord, have mercy

Oh help my unbelief, oh help my unbelief
O Lord, have mercy, O Lord, have mercy

Have mercy on us, have mercy on us
O Lord, have mercy, O Lord, have mercy
Have mercy

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Almighty and most merciful Father,

we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.

We have offended against your holy laws.

**We have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done;
and apart from your grace, there is no health in us.**

O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare all those who confess their faults.

**Restore all those who are penitent, according to your promises
declared to all people in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may now live a
godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness & Peace

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:13-14

In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

Creed

Let us affirm the faith of the Church:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended to heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

The Apostles' Creed

Renewal of Baptism - Christine Goodhart

Do you receive Chris as your sister in Christ and do you promise to give the gifts God has given to you all to encourage her as she follow Jesus.

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Chris now before you in your care?

We will.

Affirmations of the Congregation

We will surround Chris with a community of love and forgiveness, that she may grow in her trust of God, and be found faithful in her service to others. We will pray for her, that she may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

Passing of the Peace

[Invitation for congregation to share a sign of peace with one another]

Hymns of Praise and Adoration

Let This Heart Not Wander

Let my eyes see nothing
Let my eyes see nothing
But Your glory, my Lord
Let my eyes see nothing
Let my eyes see nothing
But Your glory, my Lord

May I always linger
May I always linger
In Your presence, my Lord
May I always linger
May I always linger
In Your presence, my Lord

Let this heart not wander
Let this heart not wander
From Your mercy, my Lord
Let this heart not wander
Let this heart not wander
From Your mercy, my Lord

I will ever praise You
I will ever praise You
You are worthy, my Lord
I will ever praise You
I will ever praise You
You are worthy, my Lord

Our Song In The Night

In the darkness, can you hear us? When the night comes, are we alone?
Have you forgotten all of your children? When we remember you how we groan
But our hearts cannot be silent

Refrain:

O God, be our song in the night, when the light is gone
God, be our hope, be our strength, be our sheltering place
Our song in the night

We are broken are we forsaken? Has your love gone down with the sun?
And your mercy through all history, Is it abandoned and undone?
Oh our hearts cannot be silent

[Refrain]

Our song in the night, Our song in the night, Our song in the night
Allelu - ia, Allelu - ia, Allelu - ia

Your road it led me, down to the Red Sea; The waters trembled, and you made a way
You raised Your arm and led them to dry land, Lord, will You hear us when we say
That our hearts cannot be silent

[Refrain]



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Living Our Faith

Blessing Our Children

Jesus called the children to him and said,

Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,

for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.

January Memory Verse

Matthew 4:10 - "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."

Psalm Reading

Psalm 104:19-27; page 595

Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen. Amen.*

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 16:14-16; page 766

The Word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

Acts 2:37-39 ; page 1082

The Word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark:
Glory to you, O Lord!

Mark 1:12-20; page 994

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Rev. Peter Rowan - *The Call of the Lord*

Offering of Prayers of the People

O Jesus, light of the world, come into the dark places of this earth.
You bring a light from God that only you can shed.
Light eternal, your light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.

We bring to you the darkness of our world in war, starvation, cruelty, and exploitation.

We bring to you the darkness of our earth, damaged and defaced by pollution.

We bring to you the darkness of our nation,
beset with conflict of race and class, religion and politics.

We bring to you the darkness of our relationships,
people not looking, not speaking, not listening, not forgiving.

We bring to you the darkness of our own souls,
hidden closets we have not visited or cleaned out for years.

O Jesus, light of the world, be a morning star above for us, a radiance within, the shining all around that lets us live in love. Only then shall we be reflectors of your brightness and glory to God in heaven. **Amen.**

Offering of Gifts

Even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Mark 10:45

Friends and members of Second City Church support the extension of God's Kingdom with gifts of bread, wine, talents and resources. Guests are not expected to contribute. Tithes and offerings may be placed in the offering plates, boxes on the wall as you leave, or can be made electronically. Instructions for setting up online giving are available at the donation boxes.



Doxology

*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*



LITURGY OF THE TABLE

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Invitation

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Praise God for His Mighty Acts

It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who took on our mortal flesh to reveal his glory; that he might bring us out of darkness and into his own glorious light. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

Holy, holy holy Lord God of power and might
Heaven and earth, Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest
Blessed is he, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest

Praise for Christ's Sacrifice

Therefore we proclaim our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament.

Dy - ing you de - stroyed our death, Ris - ing you re - stored our life,
5
Come, Lord Je - sus come, in glor - y.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first two phrases: 'Dy - ing you de - stroyed our death, Ris - ing you re - stored our life,'. The second staff, starting with a '5' above the first note, contains the melody for the final phrase: 'Come, Lord Je - sus come, in glor - y.' The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with quarter and eighth notes.

Calling on the Holy Spirit and Lord's Prayer

We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven:

hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come;

thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,

for ever and ever.

Amen.

Invitation to the Table

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Sharing Holy Communion

Second City Church welcomes all baptized Christians who have made a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ in a Christian church to join us in this sacrament. Non-communicants can come forward and ask for a blessing. If you need to receive communion in your seat, ask a fellow worshiper to let the communion servers know. If you are unable to receive wine, you will find a chalice containing non-alcoholic grape juice at the station the pastor is serving. The communion bread is gluten-free.

Closing Prayer

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen

Benediction

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ shine in our hearts, transform our lives, and brighten the world. And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, rest upon you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn - Precious Lord, Take My Hand

When my way grows drear
Precious Lord linger near
When my life is almost gone
Hear my cry hear my call
Hold my hand lest I fall
Take my hand precious Lord lead me home

When the shadows appear
And the night draws near
And the day is past and gone
At the river I stand
Guide my feet hold my hand

Take my hand precious Lord lead me home

Precious Lord take my hand
Lead me on let me stand
I am tired I am weak I am worn
Through the storm through the night
Lead me on to the light
Take my hand precious Lord lead me home

Through the storm through the night
Lead me on to the light
Take my hand precious Lord lead me home

Dismissal

May you be a light for the nations,
That God's salvation may reach to the end of the earth. Amen!



ATTRIBUTIONS

Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise

Words by Walter Chalmers Smith
Music: Traditional Welsh Melody

Have Mercy

Words and Music by Sandra McCracken & Thad Cockrell
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The Lord Will Have His Way

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Precious Lord, Take My Hand

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Patrick Connally



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Meeting Today After Church

Our quarterly congregational meeting will be after worship today. At the meeting we will give an update on our church finances and other general church updates. Please plan to attend if you're able. As a reminder, we have moved to having congregational meetings quarterly on the third Sundays of January, April, July and October.

Children's Sunday School Classes

Children's Sunday school classes have started again! There are two classes: ages 3 - 7 and ages 8 - 13. These groups meet at 9 am in the same upstairs Logos classrooms where they met during the fall session. Classes will continue through February 9.

Announcements Continued:

Weather-Related Delays or Cancelations

In the case of weather-related changes to worship services or other scheduled events, the church will send group messages by email and text, providing any updated information. Please help us make sure you don't miss any important messages:

- If you're not sure the church office has your current email address or cell phone number, please send your contact info to office@secondcitychurch.org as well as to solimpi@hotmail.com.
- If you don't have a cell phone or an email address, please call the church office at 717-232-0604 ASAP to request a personal phone call concerning future delays or cancelations. Thank you!



PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer Requests

Please continue to pray for the following people:

Dottie Roden
Darwin Leshar
Gail Pennay
Virginia Anderson

Nevin White
Sophia James, USAF
Amy Kemper



SOCIAL MEDIA

Please consider liking, following and subscribing to our social media! Also, when you see, read or watch something you like, share it with your friends. It's a helpful way to let others know we are here!

Facebook



Instagram



YouTube



Your contact information

If you are our guest and would like to indicate your presence with us, or if you'd like to make us aware of a change in your contact information, fill out this form and place it in the offering plate.

_____ Visitor
_____ Regular Attendee
_____ Member

Name(s):

Address (please include city and zip):

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Prayer

Requests: _____

Contact us

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